



Inside Gardner Utilities

Official Utility News for the City of Gardner



Waterline Replacement on Main Street 2009

Rate Changes Go Into Effect for Wastewater and Water

The City Council approved rate changes for water and wastewater at its September 21, 2009 meeting. For your usage in January 2010, wastewater rates will increase 8%, and water rates will increase 5%. These Changes will be reflected in your statement starting February 2010. The following is a summary of the rate changes by utility:

Wastewater Rates

Wastewater rates will be increasing 8%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$8.75 to \$9.45. The usage charge will go from \$5.57 per thousand gallons to \$6.00 per thousand gallons of water used. The average increase for a residential wastewater customer is \$2.58 per month.

Water Rates

Water rates will be increasing 5%. The monthly service charge will increase from \$9.40 to \$9.90. The cost for the first 40,000 gallons of water will go from \$4.25 per thousand gallons to \$4.45 per thousand gallons. The average increase for a residential water customer is \$2.08 per month.



Gardner Energy to Maintain Cost to Customer for Power Cost

Gardner Energy is a wholesale purchaser of power, and has long term contracts for the firm and non-firm power required to serve the City of Gardner. The purchase of power is Gardner's largest and most volatile expense. It accounted for 79% of total operating expenses in 2008.

In May of 2009, the Electric Utility Board authorized the reinstatement of the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) which reflects the monthly changes in the cost of purchasing power. At the most recent meeting on December 14th, 2009 the Board approved a recommendation by Gardner Energy staff to NOT increase the PCA through the first quarter of 2010. This decision will ensure that the cost of electricity will be maintained at its current level into the New Year.

Energy Saving Tips for a Long Winter

- **Keep that thermostat at 68°F.** For every degree you lower your heat in the 60-degree to 70-degree range, you conserve 5% of your energy use. Snuggle up in a warm sweater instead of turning up the heat.
- **Take advantage of the sun!** Open your curtains during the day, and let the sun's energy warm up your house. Pull the curtains at night to help stop heat from escaping through the glass.
- **Seal around your windows and doors.** Check around window and door frames for cracks or leaks where cold air could be seeping in. You can seal these up with caulk. For larger gaps, check out your local hardware store for sealing solutions.
- **Be a draft dodger.** Warm air can escape under exterior doors. Seal up these areas by keeping a rolled up towel pressed against the bottom of the door, dorm-room style.
- **Turn down your hot water heater.** Make sure it's set to "normal" or 120 degrees. Any hotter is a waste of energy.



TREE TRIMMING

Gardner Energy is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service. Obviously, trees and good electric service are both important to our community. Unfortunately, the two aren't always compatible and Gardner Energy must trim trees for safety purposes, as required by law, and to avoid service interruptions.

Our employees and contractors trim tree limbs away from overhead power lines in order to achieve two critical objectives:

1. **Public Safety**
2. **Reliability of electric service**

Many service outages and interruptions are caused by tree limbs which fall into power lines causing damage to wires, short circuits and other problems. That creates potential danger for you and your property, danger that can be avoided by not planting tall-growing trees under or near electric wires, and by routine tree-trimming.

Gardner Energy has hired Poor Boy Tree Service as our contractor to perform the 2010 Electric Line Tree Trimming Program. The contractor will begin trimming trees in early January 2010.

Again, careful planting of trees and shrubs away from power lines can help eliminate the need for trimming in the future.

To read more about Gardner Energy's tree trimming practices, visit our web page:

http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/electric_utility_board/ and click on Tree Trimming.



Residents Can Assist with Safe Efficient Snow Removal

Resident cooperation is essential to the success of the snow removal operations. It is very important that vehicles are removed from the streets whenever there is significant snowfall. With fewer cars on the streets, City snow plows can do a more effective job of clearing snow and ice from roadways. Residents are asked to move their vehicles off the street whenever there is the possibility of snow or ice. Other ways residents can help the Department of Public Works are:

- Snow should not be shoveled or blown into the street. This creates hazards for both the homeowner and drivers. Shoveling snow from left to right should help prevent snow plows from pushing extra snow into your driveway.
- Young children should not be allowed to play near the street when snow has accumulated. Snow banks that develop make it difficult for snowplows and car drivers to spot youngsters.
- Residents who have fire hydrants in front of their homes, in their apartment complexes, or in the parking lot of their buildings, can assist by clearing snow from the areas surrounding them.
- Residents who have catch basins in front of their homes can help by keeping ice and snow away from the openings, so the water from the melting ice and snow can drain freely.



Please help by moving vehicles off the street and onto driveways